

10-696,677

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a base; and

a container, including a top portion and a bottom portion, wherein the top portion of the container is hinged to the bottom portion of the container;

and wherein the container is fixed to the base so that the top portion of the container can be rotated upwards to reveal a cavity in the container for storing objects;

wherein the base is comprised of a first column, a second column, a top portion and a bottom portion, the first and second columns substantially perpendicular to the top and bottom portions of the base, the first and second columns substantially parallel to each other, the top and bottom portions of the base substantially parallel to each other;

wherein the first column has a first end and a second end;

wherein the second column has a first end and a second end;

wherein the top portion of the base has a first end and a second end;

wherein the bottom portion of the base has a first end and a second end;

wherein the first end of the top portion of the base is fixed to the first end of the first column and the second end of the top portion of the base is fixed to the first end of the second column;

wherein the first end of the bottom portion of the base is fixed to the second end of the first column and the second end of the bottom portion of the base is fixed to the second end of the second column;

wherein the container is fixed to the base so that the container is substantially parallel to and between the top portion of the base and the bottom portion of the base, and so that the container is substantially perpendicular to and between the first column and the second column;

and wherein the container is fixed to the base so that the top portion of the container lies between the top portion of the base and the bottom portion of the base, regardless of whether the top portion of the container is rotated upwards.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the container includes a lock which can be locked to prevent the cavity from being exposed.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the base has an open box structure with a chamber in which the container is placed.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein

the base has an open box structure with a chamber in which the container is placed.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the base is a magazine rack.

6. (withdrawn) A method comprising the steps of

inserting a container through an opening in a base having an open box structure;

fixing the container to the base inside a chamber of the base; and

wherein the container includes a top portion and a bottom portion, wherein the top portion is hinged to the bottom portion; and

wherein the container is fixed to the base so that the top portion can be rotated upwards to reveal a cavity in the container for storing objects.

7. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein
the container includes a lock which can be locked to prevent the cavity from being
exposed.
8. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 further comprising
placing an item in the cavity of the container.
9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein
the item is reading material.
10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 further comprising
locking the container so that the item cannot be accessed.
11. (withdrawn) The method of claim 9 further comprising
locking the container so that the item cannot be accessed.
12. (withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein
the reading material is a magazine.
13. (withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein
the reading material is a magazine.
14. (new) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the container is fixed to the base so that the top portion of the container lies between the first column and the second column regardless of whether the top portion of the container is rotated upwards.

15. (new) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein

the lock is located substantially centrally between the first column and the second column and substantially centrally between the top portion of the base and the bottom portion of the base.

16. (new) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the top portion of the base substantially overlaps the top portion of the container and the bottom portion of the container.

17. (new) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the bottom portion of the base substantially overlaps the top portion of the container and the bottom portion of the container.

18. (new) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein

the bottom portion of the base substantially overlaps the top portion of the container and the bottom portion of the container.

19. (new) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the first column is connected to a third column by a first side portion of the base;

the second column is connected to a fourth column by a second side portion of the base;

the first side portion of the base overlaps a first side portion of the container;

the second side portion of the base overlaps a second side portion of the container.

wherein the first column, the second column, the third column, and the fourth column are substantially parallel to each other;

wherein the first side portion of the base and the second side portion of the base are substantially perpendicular to the first column and substantially parallel to the first side portion of the container and the second side portion of the container; and

wherein the first side portion of the container and the second side portion of the container are substantially perpendicular to the bottom portion of the container.